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THE BOSTON GLOBE
25 February 1977

Turner given unanimous vote to head CIA

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Senate unanimously confirmed Adm. Stansfield Turner as CIA director yesterday.

Turner, 53, President Carter's classmate at the Naval Academy, won approval by voice vote. He said during his confirmation hearing Tuesday that he would resign his post if ever given a presidential order he felt was illegal or immoral.

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker of Tennessee said he was disturbed about permitting Turner to retain his admiral's rank while serving in the dual role as director of the CIA and director of central intelligence.

"Notwithstanding my concern with the precedent of this dual appointment, and notwithstanding my concern the appointment may have an unfortunate effect, I am sure he can serve with distinction, and I am sure he will," Baker said.

"My expression of opposition in no way diminishes my enthusiasm for the job he can and will do."

Turner was Carter's second nominee. His first, former Kennedy aide Theodore Sorensen, withdrew from consideration when strenuous opposition developed in the Senate over allegations he used classified White House material to write a book about the Kennedy years.



ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER

(UPI photo)

Legislators on both sides of the aisle praised Turner, the commander of NATO southern forces.

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), a member of the Senate select committee which investigated abuses in the intelligence community last year, said: "He is ideally suited for this job."

Sen. Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.) expressed confidence Turner would act in accordance with congressional wishes.

Turner will serve not only as head of the CIA, but also as the President's top coordinator of the diverse

branches of the intelligence community. The second spot, director of central intelligence, was created by the Ford Administration.

The Senate also approved unanimously Warren Christopher, a former deputy attorney general, to be deputy secretary of state.

In another development, Sam Brown, the antiwar activist nominated to head government volunteer agencies, breezed through two confirmation hearings and said he hopes he can revitalize the Peace Corps and other operations.

Brown, 33, is treasurer of

the State of Colorado. He supervised the volunteer effort in Eugene McCarthy's "Children's Crusade" for the 1968 New Hampshire primary. Later, he founded the Vietnam War Moratorium and protested against the US government. Now he will become part of the US government if confirmed as head of ACTION.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, whose brother created the Peace Corps in 1961, called Brown's nomination "the finest thing that's happened to this agency and the Peace Corps in many, many years."